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**Report Highlights:**

This report [1] contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Armenia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan Russia Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) meetings, published between September 1 and December 28, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are EEC Council Decision No. 59 approving a list of goods with lower tariffs for imports to Kazakhstan due to its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO); EEC Collegium decision No. 134 on the Tariff-Rate Quotas for Kyrgyzstan in 2015 and 2016; and EEC Collegium decision No. 149 establishing new EAEU MRLs for pesticides and chemicals in agricultural products.

As noted herein, Russia notified several of the SPS measures covered in this report to the WTO.

<sup>[1]</sup> Formerly reported as the 'Customs Union Ag Times' series, these reports were renamed to reflect the evolution of the Customs Union into the Eurasian Economic Union as of January 1, 2015.

### **General Information:**

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Armenia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan Russia Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) meetings, published between September 1 and December 28, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are EEC Council Decision No. 59 approving a list of goods with lower tariffs for imports to Kazakhstan due to its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO); EEC Collegium decision No. 134 on the Tariff-Rate Quotas for Kyrgyzstan in 2015 and 2016; and EEC Collegium decision No. 149 establishing new EAEU MRLs for pesticides and chemicals in agricultural products.

The documents below are hyperlinked via automated translation services for readers seeking further details. Select “refresh” on your browser if the page does not translate to the end.

As noted herein, Russia notified several of the SPS measures covered in this report to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

### **SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### ***Publication Date: September 7, 2015***

1. **Circulation of Veterinary Drugs:** Draft decision “On the Rules Regulating Circulation of Veterinary Drugs in the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1581 Draft EAEU SPS Measure on Veterinary Drugs Notified to WTO](#).

**Summary:** On September 14, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/106](#). The draft introduces common requirements for safety, registration and labeling procedures, quality assurance system, and inspections of veterinary drugs for the EAEU Member States. The public comment period for the draft closed on November 13, 2015.

#### ***Publication Date: September 10, 2015***

2. **Circulation of Feed Additives:** Draft decision “On Approval of the Rules Regulating Circulation of Feed Additives in the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1576 Draft EAEU SPS Measure on Feed Additives Notified to WTO](#).

**Summary:** On September 14, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/108](#). According to the notification, the document introduces common requirements for safety and registration procedures, quality assurance system, and inspection of feed additives for the EAEU Member States. The public comment period for the draft closed on November 13, 2015.

#### ***Publication Date: October 2, 2015***

3. **Veterinary Requirements:** Draft decision “On Amending the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)” – original

in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1583 Draft EAEU SPS Measure on Feed and Feed Additives Notified to WTO](#).

**Summary:** On October 5, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/109](#). In particular, the draft would expand EAEU veterinary requirements to cover leguminous vegetables used for animal feed, citron melons, and some feed additives. The public comment period for the draft closed on December 4, 2015.

4. **Unified List of Goods Subject to Veterinary Control:** Draft decision “On Amending the Unified List of Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1583 Draft EAEU SPS Measure on Feed and Feed Additives Notified to WTO](#).

**Summary:** On October 5, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/110](#). In particular, the draft would expand the respective EAEU list to include leguminous vegetables used for animal feed, citron melons, and some feed additives. The public comment period for the draft closed on December 4, 2015.

**Publication Date: October 13, 2015**

5. **Plant Quarantine:** Draft decision “On Approval of the Unified Rules and Standards for the Assurance of Plant Quarantine in the Eurasian Economic Union” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1590 Two Draft EAEU Phytosanitary Measures Notified to WTO](#).

**Summary:** On October 14, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/111](#). In particular, the draft would introduce unified rules and standards of quarantine phytosanitary examinations, disinfection of regulated products and objects, basic approaches and requirements to phytosanitary certification system, methodological approaches to establishment of quarantine phytosanitary zones in the territories of the EAEU Member States for objects included in the Unified EAEU list of quarantine objects. The public comment period for the draft closed on December 13, 2015.

6. **Phytosanitary Requirements:** Draft decision “On Amending Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 318” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1590 Two Draft EAEU Phytosanitary Measures Notified to WTO](#).

**Summary:** On October 14, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/112](#). In particular, the draft would specify that a maximum of five kilograms of plant products (except for planting and seed material or potatoes) per person can be imported into the Eurasian Economic Union without a phytosanitary certificate in mail deliveries, accompanied and unaccompanied passenger baggage in ships, aircraft, carriages, motor vehicles, and baggage of ships and aircraft crew members. The public comment period for the draft closed on December 13, 2015.

**SPS/TBT MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

***Publication Date: October 30, 2015***

7. **Technical Regulations:** Draft Amendments No. 3 to the EAEU Technical Regulation “On Food Safety” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1595 Draft Amendments No. 3 to EAEU Food Safety Regulation](#).

**Summary:** On December 4, 2015, Russia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/114](#) and [G/TBT/N/RUS/46](#). In particular, the draft establishes new definitions and requirements for chocolate and other cocoa products. The 60-day public comment period for the draft will close on February 2 and January 27, 2015, respectively. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA’s enquiry point ([us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov](mailto:us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov)). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send your comments by January 21, 2015.

## **INTERNATIONAL MEMORANDA**

***Publication Date: June 18, 2014***

Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Government of the Republic of Peru - original in [English](#)

**Summary:** The Memorandum was signed in Lima on October 6, 2015. According to the memorandum, it is not an international treaty and does not entail any legal obligations for the Parties. The memorandum is a declaration by the Parties of their intent to cooperate in various spheres including regional economic integration, trade facilitation, technical regulations, SPS measures, and agriculture. The cooperation will be carried out in the framework of a joint Working Group that will meet at least once a year. The memorandum was written in Russian, English and Spanish, with all three texts being equally valid.

## **MEETING OF THE SUPREME EURASIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT THE HEADS OF STATE LEVEL October 16, 2015**

***Publication Date: October 19, 2015***

**[EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 22](#)**. *On Some Issues Related to the Accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the World Trade Organization* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision authorized the Eurasian Economic Commission to approve a list of goods for Kazakhstan which shall be subject to import tariffs differing from the Unified EAEU import tariff in accordance with the WTO commitments of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Additionally, Kazakhstan shall ensure that goods from the list imported into Kazakhstan from third countries will be consumed domestically and Kazakhstan will take measure to prevent export of such goods into the other EAEU Member States.

**EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 29.** *On the Launch of Negotiations with the State of Israel on a Free Trade Agreement* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** According to the decision, the EAEU Member States together with the EEC shall start negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement with Israel.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL**  
**August 21, 2015**

***Publication Date: September 10, 2015***

**EEC Council Decision No. 54.** *On Establishment of Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union for Certain Types of Goods in Accordance with the Commitments of the Russian Federation in the Framework of the WTO* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision decreases the import tariff for two live plants items (from EAEU HS 0602) from the current 8.3 percent to 5 percent as of September 20, 2015. The decision also lays the basis for replacement of the current combined EAEU tariff rate for two items of concentrated juices (from HS 2009) of 10 percent but not less than 0.05 Euro per liter with an ad valorem tariff of 10 percent in a year, as of September 1, 2016.

***Publication Date: October 19, 2015***

**EEC Council Decision No. 56.** *On Approving the Results of Assessment of the Quarantine Phytosanitary Control System, as well as Familiarization with the System of Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (Control) of the Kyrgyz Republic* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision was required for removal of the quarantine and phytosanitary controls on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border as of November 18, 2011. However, veterinary controls will remain in place on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border until a similar decision on approval of the Kyrgyz veterinary control system is issued.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL**  
**October 14, 2015**

***Publication Date: October 19, 2015***

**EEC Council Decision No. 59.** *On the List of Goods Which in Accordance with the Commitments of the Republic of Kazakhstan as Part of its Accession to the World Trade Organization shall be Subject to Import Customs Duty Rates that are Lower than the Rates of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union, and the Rates of such Tariffs* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision approves the respective tariff schedule for Kazakhstan. In particular, the list of goods with lower tariffs for Kazakhstan includes a number of agricultural items, such as some live animals, beef, pork, poultry, fish, seafood, and dairy products; some fresh and processed fruits and vegetables; processed nuts, coffee, tea; rice, sorghum; starches, copra,

vegetable oils, margarine; sugar, some prepared food items; fruit juices, wines and other alcoholic beverages; dextrins, and some raw flax products.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL**  
**December 2, 2015**

***Publication Date: December 23, 2015***

**EEC Council Decision No. 82.** *On Amendments to the Customs Union Commission Decision No. 299 of May 28, 2010* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The amendments appear to be technical and stylistic, related to the replacement of the Customs Union by the Eurasian Economic Union.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**September 1, 2015**

***Publication Date: September 2, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 106** *On Amending Section 22 of Chapter II of the Unified Sanitary and Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for Goods Subject to Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision (Control)* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision clarifies that ascorbic acid in section 22 “Requirements for safety of food additives and flavorings” is a substance for treatment of flour and specifies the requirement for phosphates in meat products. The amendment regarding phosphates was notified to the WTO as a draft via [G/SPS/N/RUS/50](#) in April 2014.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 111.** *On Amendments to Decision of the Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 290 of December 10, 2013* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** In addition to some technical amendments, the decision supplements the program for development of standards for the implementation of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products” (TR CU 024/2011) with six new standards that are to be developed on the basis of existing ISO standards by 2017.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**October 6, 2015**

***Publication Date: October 14, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 134** *On Establishing Volumes of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Import of Certain Types of Agricultural Goods in the Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2015 and 2016* - original in [Russian](#)



**Summary:** The decision establishes tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) and respective volumes for imports of meat, poultry and whey into the Kyrgyz Republic for 2015 and 2016. In particular, the TRQs cover frozen beef; fresh, chilled and frozen pork and poultry, and whey. Decision No. 134 came into force as of October 24, 2010. For further details please see GAIN report [\*KG1504 Meat Poultry Whey TRQs Established for Kyrgyzstan\*](#).

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**November 10, 2015**

***Publication Date: November 16, 2015***

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 149](#)** *On Amendments to Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 299 of May 28, 2010 - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The amendments concern requirements for pesticides and agrochemicals and Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides and chemicals in external entities, such as human body, soil, reservoir water, working air, open air, and in agricultural raw materials and food products. The document came into force on December 16, 2015. For more details please see GAIN report [\*RS1596 Eurasia Economic Union - New Pesticide MRLs\*](#).

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**December 1, 2015**

***Publication Date: December 1, 2015***

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 158](#)** *On the Introduction of Mandatory Pre-Arrival Submission of Information on Goods Imported to the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union by Air Transport - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The decision mandates pre-arrival submission of information about goods imported into the EAEU customs territory by air as of April 1, 2017. Similar requirements for goods entering the EAEU by automobile transport and by rail have been in force since June 2012 and October 2014, respectively. For details on pre-arrival submission please see GAIN report [\*RS15100 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative\*](#).

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**December 8, 2015**

***Publication Date: December 9, 2015***

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 160](#)** *On Amendments to the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The decision introduces some technical amendments reflecting the replacement of the Customs Union with the Eurasian Economic Union, and also adds a new chapter 42 with veterinary requirements for the import of laboratory animals. As a draft, chapter 42 was notified

to the WTO via [G/SPS/N/RUS/73](#) in August 2014. For details please see GAIN report [RS1453](#) *[Draft Customs Union Amendments to Veterinary Requirements](#)*.

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 161](#)** *On Amendments to Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 607 of April 7, 2011* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision introduces some technical amendments reflecting the replacement of the Customs Union with the Eurasian Economic Union and also introduces a new EAEU form of a veterinary certificate for laboratory animals imported into the Eurasian Economic Union.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**December 15, 2015**

***Publication Date: December 16, 2015***

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 167](#)** *On Amendments to Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 882 of December 9, 2011* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision updates the lists of standards for the implementation of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Technical Regulation on Fruit and Vegetable Juice Products” (TR TS 023/2011). For details on the Technical Regulation please see GAIN report [RS1334](#) *[Customs Union Technical Regulation on Juice](#)*.